



Linda McCulloch, Superintendent

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The Montana Title I Conference will be held at the Red Lion Colonial Inn, Helena, on February 26-27, 2008. This year's conference will have a new format and focus on the administration of Title I programs with a target audience of authorized representatives/superintendents and program directors. See conference agenda.

Superintendent Linda McCulloch will recognize Title I schools and districts that have made outstanding achievements in 2007 during her luncheon address on the first day of the conference. Additional keynote speakers during the conference will include Mr. Rich Long, Executive Director, National Association of State Title I Directors; Mr. John Perricone, Teacher, Maine-Endwell High School, Endwell, NY and Ms. Jessica C. Owens, Graduate Student, Abilene Christian University, Abilene, TX.

ESEA Title I-Part A is one of the largest federal programs that provide supplemental funds to assist low income and low achieving students meet high state academic and performance standards. Montana school districts received over \$38 million for the 2007-2008 school year.

The use of E-Grants for Title I applications, program amendments and cash requests in 2007, along with federal and state discussions regarding the reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, which will replace the current No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, has provided many challenges for OPI, district and school administrators. By the time of this year's conference we hope to have additional information on these two major topics to share and discuss with participants to insure the administration and implementation of high quality Title I programs across the state.

Four large-group working sessions will be used this year, instead of the traditional small group break-out sessions used at previous Title I conferences.

The conference will begin with a full breakfast starting at 7:00 AM on Tuesday and Wednesday and will include a lunch each day. The conference will conclude at 1:30 PM on Wednesday with a drawing for door prizes—must be present to win.

Registration will be limited to 400 participants (online and walk-in) this year so make your reservations early. The conference registration fee will be \$100 again this year and participants are encouraged to register online at <http://eu.montana.edu/titleone>

For additional information contact Gwen Smith, OPI, at 406-444-5660 or gsmith@mt.gov